

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2006  
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Council Members Present:**

John H. Tarr, Mayor  
Anita Speidel, Vice Mayor  
Nancy B. Conklin, Councilwoman  
Terry Howard, Councilman  
Ellen W. Richardson, Councilwoman  
E. David Ross, Councilman

**Council Members Absent:**

Glenn B. Wolfe, Councilman

***Call to Order***

Mayor Tarr called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

***Invocation***

Councilman Howard offered the invocation.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

Mayor Tarr led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Agenda Additions/Deletions and Adoption***

Councilman Ross motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Conklin, to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

***1. Approval of Minutes of the August 17, 2006 Council Meeting.***

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

***2. Presentation and Resolution in Honor of Ronald Mason.***

Mayor Tarr read the following resolution in honor of former Councilman, Mr. Ron Mason, and presented Mr. Mason with a plaque and a key to the city. Council thanked Mr. Mason for his service and dedication to the Town.

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
CHINCOTEAGUE TOWN COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, Ronald A. Mason has served this community well as a member of the Town Council since July 1, 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, his tenure on the Town Council has earned him the respect of the citizens of Chincoteague and people throughout Accomack County and the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, as a member of the Town Council, he has faithfully served as a member of the Liaison Committee, the Bicycling Advisory Committee, as Chairman of the Public Works Committee, and as Chairman of the Harbor Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the exemplary conduct and sense of fairness he has demonstrated in all capacities as Councilman has furthered the cause of better understanding, and has been an influence for good in the growth and progress of our community;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, John H. Tarr, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the Town of Chincoteague, and speaking on behalf of the entire Town Council and all other citizens, do hereby tender this Resolution, extending our deep appreciation to Brother Ronald A. Mason. We wish him success in all future endeavors and are grateful to have served with him.

**DATED** this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2006.

Attest:

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John H. Tarr, Mayor

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Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager

### **3. *Accomack County Board of Supervisors Update.***

Island District Supervisor, Honorable Wanda Thornton, updated Council with several issues that the County is currently facing that may affect the Island:

- The bids for the Chincoteague Channel bridge were sent out on August 31.
- VDOT will install two additional 55 mph signs on the causeway.
- The VDOT regulation on streets in subdivisions is now less than the original 50' requirement.
- The County is increasing the parking and ramp areas on the Queen Sound boat ramp.
- The County is doing another property reassessment, with a projected 36-37% increase.
- The population census for Chincoteague was overstated by about 2,000 people. The census for Accomack County was overstated by about 4,000 people. The true population of Accomack County is 34,488. The school population is basically unchanged for the past five years.
- Meals tax will be assessed only to the unincorporated areas of Accomack County.
- Affordable housing is a problem in the County.
- Economic Development – The County is working on the Wallops Island Business Park; the State has taken an interest in the project as well. Several tenants are ready to enter the Park which will create many jobs in the County. Wal-Mart is expected to build in the Onley area soon which will also provide over 250 jobs.
- Accomack County is studying a decentralized wastewater system for the County.
- There is a serious issue with the paid Fire/Medics and volunteers. Paid Fire/Medics are not allowed to volunteer after hours for the fire/rescue company in which they are paid.

- The revenue from the saltwater fishing license is not being returned to local communities, but the majority of the revenue is going toward research for VIMS.

#### **4. Resolution, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Town of Chincoteague, Virginia.**

Mr. Bryan Rush, Emergency Operations Coordinator, explained the requirement of local governments to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan as well as the need for the plan in order to secure funding for pre- and post-disaster situations.

Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Conklin, to adopt the following resolution for the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town of Chincoteague. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **RESOLUTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE, VIRGINIA**

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive certain federal assistance; and

WHEREAS, an Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee comprised of members of the business community and non-profit organizations, and local officials was convened in order to study the Town's risks from and vulnerabilities to natural Hazard, and to make recommendations on mitigating the effects of such Hazard on the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission developed a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan including the Town of Chincoteague; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Town of Chincoteague, Eastern Shore of Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee members and the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission have resulted in the development of a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia that the sections pertaining to the Town of Chincoteague in the Eastern Shore Hazard Mitigation Plan dated June 2006 is hereby approved and adopted for the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia.

ADOPTED by the Council of the Town of Chincoteague, Virginia this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

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John H. Tarr, Mayor

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Robert G. Ritter, Jr., Town Manager

## **5. Budget and Personnel Committee Report of August 8, 2006.**

Councilwoman Conklin reported that the auditors gave a presentation at the meeting. She stated that the following two recommendations were also discussed.

- **Amendment to Section 303 – Holidays of the Employee Handbook-** Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Conklin, to include Good Friday as a paid employee holiday. The motion was unanimously approved.
- **Position Description for a Town Planner-** Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Conklin, to approve the position description for a Town Planner as written. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **6. Public Participation.**

- Mrs. Lois Hunt asked Council to reconsider the policy of the causeway signs.
- Mr. Tommy Clark, Main Street Merchants representative, requested that the downtown parking spaces be closed to regular parking and be allowed to be utilized by a Classic Car association during the Chili Chowder Cook-off on October 14. He also requested that Golden Oldies music be piped throughout downtown on that day. It was the general consensus of Council to grant the Main Street Merchants' requests.
- Mrs. Payne commended Mr. Ron Mason for starting the Trolley History Tour.
- Mr. Sal Zanghi thanked the Police Department for their assistance during the recent tropical storm. Mr. Zanghi also complained about Charter Communication's cable service. He asked Council to help with the problem.
- Mr. Ron Mason thanked the Town for the manner in which the employees handled the recent tropical storm.

## **7. Broadband Contract and Management Team.**

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Richardson, to enter into a contract with Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. for the development of a telecommunications plan for the Town under the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$18,000 and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract documents and to appoint a Telecommunication Management Team. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **8. Corner Lot Setback Requirements.**

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Conklin, that giving consideration to the public necessity, convenience, general welfare, and good zoning practices, that the following proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance be referred to the Planning Commission pursuant to section 15.2-2285 for their recommendations, such recommendations to be made only after Notice and Public Hearing in Accordance with Section 15.2-2204:

Sections 3.6.5, 3.9.5, 4.3.5, and 4.6.5 – Corner Lots, item (2) rewording as:

*The side yard setback abutting a street, road, right-of-way, or easement shall be 15 feet for both main and accessory structures.*

Further, the Planning Commission shall report its recommendations, with any explanatory materials, within ninety (90) days of its first meeting to consider the proposed amendments. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **9. Deed of Vacation – Steve Katsetos and Tom Vasiliou.**

Councilman Howard motioned, seconded by Councilwoman Conklin, to adopt the following ordinance for a deed of vacation between Messrs. Vasiliou and Katsetos. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **ORDINANCE**

THIS DEED OF VACATION is made this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006 by Anastasios Vasiliou and Steve Katsetos, parties of the first part, to be referred to as “Grantors” and Grantees” for indexing purposes, and the Town of Chincoteague, party of the second part, pursuant to section 15.2-2272 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended; and

The Grantors hereby, agree and request the vacation of a certain plat of survey situated in the Town of Chincoteague entitled “ William M. Birch Development” dated August 10, 1964 made by R. L. Beebe, C.E., to show Lots 1 through 13, said plat being recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Accomack County, Virginia in Plat Book 13, page 6 and “The Wagon Wheel” dated March 9, 1982 made by Marshall, McKee & Associates, to show Lots 1 through 12, said plat being recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Accomack County, Virginia in Plat Book 26, page 20, reference to said plat being hereby made for a more particular description of the herein conveyed property, and in which subdivision the property line dividing Lot 1 of the “Wagon Wheel Subdivision” and Lot 5 of the “William M. Birch Development” be vacated, and such property line be relocated 89.77’ into Lot 5 of the “William M. Birch Development.

**WHEREAS**, the basis of said vacation is at the request of owners of said lots for the purpose of construction of a 6 unit townhouse located on Lot 1.

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE:**

1. That the property line between Lot 1 of the “ William M. Birch Development” dated August 10, 1964 made by R. L. Beebe, C.E., said plat being recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Accomack County, Virginia in Plat Book 13, page 6 and Lot 5 of “The Wagon Wheel” dated March 9, 1982 made by Marshall, McKee & Associates, said plat being recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Accomack County, Virginia in Plat Book 26, page 20, be vacated, and such property line be relocated 89.77’ into Lot 5 of the “William M. Birch Development.

2. That a certified copy of the Ordinance be recorded in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court of Accomack County, Virginia.

The effective date of the Ordinance shall be upon adoption. Approved this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006

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John H. Tarr, Mayor

Tax Map Numbers: 030A60700000500  
030A61800000100

### **10. Mayor and Council Announcements or Comments.**

- Councilwoman Richardson announced that the Planning Commission will have a special meeting on September 7 at 7:00 pm to discuss the Sign Ordinance. She also thanked the Town employees for their efforts during the recent tropical storm.
- Councilman Ross announced that the Safety and Transportation Committee will not meet in September and that the Ordinance Committee will meet on September 18 at 5:30 pm.
- Councilman Howard announced that the Harbor Committee will not meet in September and that the Cemetery Committee will meet on September 26 at 5:30 pm in the conference room. Councilman Howard stated that he was concerned about the flooding in the streets during the recent storm and requested that a policy or precaution be considered to prohibit vehicles spraying water on property when streets are flooded. He also asked if the Public Works Committee could review the possibility of using flood gates in certain low-lying areas of the Island.
- Mr. Bryan Rush updated Council on the recent Tropical Storm Ernesto and its effects on the Island, including damage assessment and clean-up.
- Mayor Tarr announced that the planning consultant, Mr. Ed McMahon, will have a presentation for Council and the public on September 13 at 7:00 pm.

### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Mayor Tarr announced that the next meeting will be on September 21, 2006 at 7:30 pm. Councilwoman Richardson motioned, seconded by Councilman Howard, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Mayor

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Town Manager